

Message Text

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ACTION OC-06

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 AID-05 ISO-00 NEA-10 USIA-06 /028 W

----- 060085

R 091448Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO AMCONSUL KARACHI

SECSTATE WASHDC 851

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ACOM, EAID

SUBJECT: TELEPHONE USIA DEPABX INSTALLATION

REF: (A) DAMASCUS 7812, (B) DAMASCUS 7800 (NOTAL)

(C) KARACHI 4814, (D) KARACHI 4442

1. KARACHI 4814 CROSSED WITH DAMASCUS 7812. WHILE WE PLAN TO MAKE A FORMAL WRITTEN REQUEST TO THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT FOR CABLE PAIRS BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND USAID (AS WELL AS BETWEEN THE EMBASSY, USIS, AND NEW CONSULAR BUILDING) WE ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE OUTCOME. INFORMAL SOUNDINGS INDICATE WE CAN EXPECT A POSSIBILITY OF LINES BEING AVAILABLE IN LATE 1978 IF THE NEW TELEPHONE EXCHANGE PLANNED FOR THIS AREA IS COMPLETED.

2. USAID, HOWEVER, HAS URGENT AND IMMEDIATE NEED FOR RELIABLE TELEPHONE SYSTEM. WE WISH, THEREFORE, TO CONTINUE WITH THE PLAN TO PROVIDE USAID WITH SEPRATE EPABX SYSTEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH PREVIOUS TELEGRAPHIC TRAFFIC ON SUBJECT. EMBASSY IS NOW USING 44 EXTENSIONS OF ITS EPABX SYSTEM AND WOULD EXCEED 50 IF CABLE PAIRS ARE OBTAINED FOR USIS AND NEW CONSULAR BUILDING. USAID IS NOW OPERATING ON FOUR FLOORS OF ITS BUILDING AND HAS PLANS TO EXPAND TO FIFTH FLOOR WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR TO ACCOMMODATE PROJECTED STAFF OF ABOUT 16 AMERICANS AND 30 FSL'S BY END OF FY 1978. TOTAL MISSION NEEDS BY THAT TIME WOULD BE VERY CLOSE TO, AND MIGHT EVEN EXCEED, 100 EXTENSIONS AVAILABLE ON EMBASSY EPABX.

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3. IT IS THEREFORE REQUESTED THAT WASHINGTON CONTINUE

WITH PROCUREMENT OF AID EPABX USING FUNDS ALREADY
RESERVED. AT SAME TIME, WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE INFORM-
ATION REQUESTED REF. (A) IN ORDER TO DETERMINE FUNDING OF
TIE LINE EQUIPMENT FOR USE WHEN WE EVENTUALLY OBTAIN
NECESSARY ADDITIONAL CABLE PAIRS FROM SYRIANGOVERNMENT.
MURPHY

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